life and other related laws and international conventions have been organised for various enforcement agencies.

(iv) Raids are carried out by the wildlife authorities, in co-operation with other enforcement agencies, whenever information of illegal trading in wildlife is received.

(v) India is a signatory of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) under which international trade in endangered species and their parts and derivatives is strictly regulated.

(vi) Rewards are given to informers for gathering intelligence regarding illegal trade and smuggling of wildlife products.

(vii) Regional and Sub-regional offices of Wildlife Preservation have been set-up mainly at the major export centres of the country to prevent illegal trade and smuggling of wildlife products.

राष्ट्रीय वानिकी नीति के अन्तर्गत वृक्षारोपण

4155. **श्री मनोहर कान्त ध्यानी:** क्या पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) उत्तर प्रदेश के 12 पर्वतीय जिलों में विगत तीन वर्षों में राष्ट्रीय वानिकी नीति के अन्तर्गत कितने हैक्टेयर भूमि में वृक्षारोपण किया गया है;

(ख) इस नीति के अन्तर्गत ईंधन और चारा प्राप्त करने के लए कौन-कौन से वृक्ष लगाए जा रहे हैं;

(ग) क्या शुष्क पेड़ों (चीड़ और यूके-लिप्टस) के स्थान पर चौड़ी पत्ती के छायादार पेड़ों को लगाने का विचार है; और

(घ) पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान रोपित वृक्षों के अनुपात में जीवित वृक्षों का अनुपात क्या है?

पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री बाबू लाल मरांडी): (क) राज्य सरकार द्वारा प्रदान की गई सूचना के अनुसार इन जिलों में पिछले तीन सालों में 50, 776 हैक्टेयर क्षेत्र में वृक्षारोपक किया गया है।

(ख) जो वृक्ष प्रजातियां लगाई जाती हैं वे हैं:— बांज, बाटल, रजत बांज, पातली, क्वेरल, खरीक, भीमल, सैंडन, पदम, मेहल, चीड़, सुरई, बकाइन, गरुड, युक्लिप्टस। इनसे ईंधन लकड़ी और/अथवा चारा प्राप्त होता है।

(ग) स्थान की परिस्थितियों के अनुसार प्रजातियों का चयन किया जाता है। चीड़ के पेड़ मिट्टी की बहुत कम गहराई वाले सूखे स्थानों पर लगाए जाते हैं, जहां चौड़े पत्तों वाली प्रजातियों को लगाना सफल नहीं होता है। जिस क्षेत्र में युक्लिप्टस के पेड़ लगाए गये हैं उसका आगे विस्तार नहीं किया जा रहा है।

(घ) राज्य सरकार की सूचना के अनुसार पिछले तीन सालों के दौरान लगाए गए वृक्षों की औसत जीवितता प्रतिशतता लगभग 65 प्रतिशत है।

Losses due to forest fires

4156. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of forest fires that took place during the last two years in the coutry, State-wise;

(b) the total loss of property, trees and wild animals by these fires in each case; and

(c) the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Task force on environmental pollution

4157. SHRI JOYANTA ROY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any special task force consisting of young and qualified scientists to interact with major industrial establishments in the country and to assist them in controlling the evergrowing menance of environmental pollution on land, sea and air:

(b) if so, the details thereof including the number of scientists constituting the task force, their job norms and their modus operandi; and

(c) if answer to part (a) above be in negative, whether in view of the ever increasing importance of the question of environmental pollution, Government would consider the question of constituting such a scientific task force with immediate effect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arese.

(c) No such proposal of constituting a scientific task force is under consideration by the Government.

Irrigation and Hydro Electric Schemes of Kerala awaiting clearance

4158. SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of projects for Irrigation and Hydro Electric Schemes from Kerala awaiting clearance from Central Government;

(b) what are the dates of applications of these projects and their current position; and

(c) when they are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) There is no Irrigaiton and Hydro Electric Project of Kerala pending for environmental clearance with the Ministry. In respect of forest clearance, a *statement* showing names of Irrigation and Hydro Electric Projects of Kerala pending under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 alongwith the date of their forwarding by State Government and present status, is annexed (*see* below).

(c) As and when complete details in respect of a proposal are received, expeditious action is taken for a final decision on the same.

Statement

Names of Irrigation and Hydro-Electric Projects of Kerala pending under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 along with their present positon.

Sl. No.	Name of the proposal	Date of letter vide which proposal was sent by State Government	Present position
1.	Meenavallam Micro Hydel Project.	24.10.1997	The proposal is pending with the State Government for want of essential details sought on 28.11.97 by Regional Office of the Ministry at Bangalore.
2.	Kuthungal Small Hydro-Electric Project.	19.9.1996	The proposal is pending with the State Government for want of essential details sought on 21.4.98 by Regional Office of the Ministry at Bangalore.